

# The Decree

"Wesleyan's Student Voice Since 1984"

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## Gallery backers say donors were misled

Artist Daisy Thorp and novelist Alan Gurganus have publicly accused NCWC President John White of fraudulent spending of donated funds.

Five years ago Wesleyan held a fundraiser for the Daisy Thorp Gallery that would house the 400-piece Lynch Collection of Outsider Art that the college purchased in December of 1987. Gurganus says that the fundraiser "raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to build a Arts Center in Daisy's honor."

It was Thorp and Gurganus's understanding that the Arts Center would be the sole beneficiary of the fundraiser proceeds. Allegations began when Thorp visited Wesleyan and claims that "the small gallery was lost in a maze of marketing offices." Pres-

ently the gallery is a small display area surrounding a receptionist desk.

Thorp's anger intensified when she learned "through hearsay" that White intended to sell two-thirds of this very collection in order to complete construction of the arts building.

President White contended that the allegations are the result of a misunderstanding.

"Our goal has remained that the students come first," says White. "I think it is a real tragedy that the Lynch collection is not seen. Our goal was to put it on display and use it for learning."

According to White, as time passed and deficits increased, the Lynch collection became more of a liability than a stepping stone.

When White came to Wes-



By  
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leyan in 1995, there were several problems concerning finances. The Dunn Center needed \$1 million to complete construction, decreased enrollment led to a smaller budget for the campus, WESQ-FM's management had been transferred, the Wesleyan Press had lapsed, and \$650,000 was still needed to complete construction on the Pearsall Building.

White said, "I was really committed to both Daisy and the Pearsall family. I wanted to see

the construction completed. The Lynch Collection is a wonderful resource."

It became apparent that Wesleyan had to start at the beginning. Several steps that had been overlooked would make it difficult for the college to function to the best of its ability and remain competitive with other campuses. And after several plans began to interfere with one another, the destination of the Lynch Collection had to be reconsidered.

The Admissions and Financial Aid offices had to be moved in order to create a more functioning campus.

"We hired a consultant in enrollment management in November of 1996. He said that immediate steps had to be taken to move financial aid and admissions

because these offices couldn't remain on the edge of campus, they had to be the center," said White. There were two possibilities for housing a new enrollment center: the Spruill Building and the Student Activities Building. This would further affect the Lynch Collection.

In September of 1997, White released a memo to faculty and staff indicating that the focus of the college had to remain on attracting and retaining students.

In October of 1997 at a Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved moving ahead with the Thomas J. Pearsall Jr. Building as an enrollment office and the Daisy Thorp Gallery would be completed as soon as final design

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## Construction behind on residential suites, but target still Aug. 15

By CAMERON BATCHELOR

There has been many rumors floating around campus about the construction on the new residential suites. The rumors suggest that construction is far behind schedule and that the college is planning to rent blocks of rooms at the Fairfield Inn for students if their new rooms are not completed by fall.

The rumor about construction being behind is true, but the situation is not as bad as many people think. Although, construction is behind by about three weeks, the original deadline of Aug. 15 has not been changed.

The deadline "is still doable," according to Belinda Faulkner. The contractor is going to have more people start working on the job and possibly even longer work hours to make up for the time that has been lost.

As for the other rumor about Wesleyan making plans to rent blocks of rooms at the Fairfield Inn if the residential suites are not completed by next fall, "that is purely a rumor," according to Faulkner. She said "in the unlikely event that some unforeseeable obstacle prevents the project from being complete by Fall opening, the College will have a back-up plan for students in those suites."

The construction is being watched very closely, but the college is certainly still planning on the completion deadline of Aug. 15.

## Wesleyan announces tuition increase in fall

By CAMERON BATCHELOR

It's official. Next year students at Wesleyan will have to dig a little deeper in their pockets to pay for tuition. Many students received a letter over Spring Break containing the news of the tuition increase and the reason for the raise.

Wesleyan College has made

many changes and advances in the past few years and is planning to continue to do so in the future. Just this year, the Harness Center and Alumni Tennis Complex opened. Next year, the Thomas J. Pearsall, Jr. Building, the Daisy Thorp Gallery, and new residence suites will be completed. Also, in the summer of 1998 construction will begin on a

new recreation facility. So the tuition increase is due to all the changes, improvements, and the rising cost of everyday living.

Next fall, 1998-1999, tuition will increase by \$248 to total \$7,348 as stated in President White's letter. Room fees will increase by \$44 and board fees will

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## Women's history honored in March

By STACIE MILLER

"Women's History is the primary tool for women's emancipation," said Gerda Lerner, Ph. D., History, as the month of March was celebrated as Women's History Month.

March marked the 150th anniversary for the Women's Rights Movement. During this time people celebrated women who made historical contributions to our nation, such as the women who were important in helping to



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establish charitable and culture institutions.

North Carolina Wesleyan College had a chapel service during March to celebrate Women's History Month.

Rev. Audrey McCarter Hedge-

peth, who comes from a long line of ministers, was the guest speaker. Her message was "A Few Good Women that God can Use."

She focused on the women that God used in the past such as Mary, Ester, and Ruth. Mary was Jesus' mother, Ester became queen and saved her people from persecution, and Ruth gave up her own life to serve others.

Rev. Hedgepeth told how God can use women today just like He did in the past.